HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 141532 PRINTER: LI
80 KINGSTON 7613

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 01 KINGST 07613 181601Z
ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 DCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 HA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /054 W
049048 181632Z /47

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS or XDS EXT
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 151205Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5313
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PA
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7613
E.O. 12065: GDS 10/14/86 (HAVERKAMP, R) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SHOTS FIRED AT POLITICAL LEADERS
REF: KINGSTON 7571
1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. GLEANER COLUNIST JOHN HEARNE IN HIS OCTOBER 12 COLUMN DESCRIBES AN INCIDENT HE WITNESSED IN WHICH OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA WAS SHOT AT. ON OCTOBER 8, SEAGA WAS TOURING THE CONSTITUENCY OF WEST RURAL ST.ANDREW WITH THE JLP INCUMBENT MP DR. MAVIS GILMOUR AND OTHER JLP OFFICIALS. HEARNE DESCRIBES PASSING A BUS HIRED BY GILMOUR TO TRANSPORT SUPPORTERS WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACKED; EVERY WINDOW HAD BEEN SMASHED AND GILMOUR'S AREA ORGANIZER, A WOMAN OF 60, WAS SITTING BESIDE IT WITH A SERIOUS SKULL INJURY. TWO MILES FURTHER ON THE VAN IN WHICH SEAGA AND GILMOUR WERE RIDING CAME UNDER RIFLE FIRE AT A SHARP BEND IN THE ROAD AFTER THE LEAD POLICE ESCORT VEHICLE
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 02 KINGST 07613 181601Z
HAD ROUNDED THE CORNER AHEAD AND BEFORE THE FOLLOW-ON ESCORT HAD ROUNDED THE CORNER BEHIND. HEARNE COUNTED EIGHT TO TEN SHOTS BEFORE THE POLICE RETURNED FIRE. SEAGA REPORTEDLY HAD DISMOUNTED AND WAS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD BEFORE BEING HUSTLED OFF IN THE VAN.
3. WE FIND IT ODD THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS NOT REPORTED AS A NEWS STORY IN THE PRESS. HOWEVER, HEARNE IS ONE OF JAMAICA'S MOST RESPECTED WRITERS AND AN OBJECTIVE REPORTER.
4. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, PRIMIN MANLEY AND HIS PARTY ALSO WERE FIRED ON LAST WEEK WHILE TOURING A ST. ANDREW CONSITUTUENCY.
5. COMMENT. BOTH MANLEY AND SEAGA ARE ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IT IS COMMON FOR VIOLENCE TO OCCUR WHERE LARGE CROWDS OF SUPPORTERS

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

OF EITHER PARTY GATHER, AND THE FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS HAS INCREASED SHARPLY SINCE OCTOBER 5 WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER AMMOUNCED ELECTIONS.

6. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ATTACKS BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER PARTY WOULD SEEK TO KILL THE OTHER'S LEADER. OBVIOUSLY, ANY SERIOUS INJURY TO EITHER WOULD HAVE MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS. BOTH MANLEY AND SEAGA ARE EXPOSED WHEN THEY CAMPAIGN AND COULD MAKE EASY TARGETS FOR A TRAINED AND DETERMINED GUNMAN. WE EXPECT THERE WILL BE MORE REPORTS OF VILLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH CAMPAIGN TOURS AND RALLIES INVOLVING MANLEY AND SEAGA, AS WELL AS OTHER CANDIDATES, IN THIS HOTELY-CONTESTED ELECTION, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EVERY SUCH INCIDENT THAT OCCURS NECESSARILY REPRESENTS AND ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

THE SENIOR POLITICAN PRESENT. FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PNP CANDIDATE ROY MCGANN ON THE EVE OF NOMINATION DAY, TENSIONS COULD BE EVEN HIGHER THAN HERETOFORE.

LAWRENCE

CONFIDENTIAL